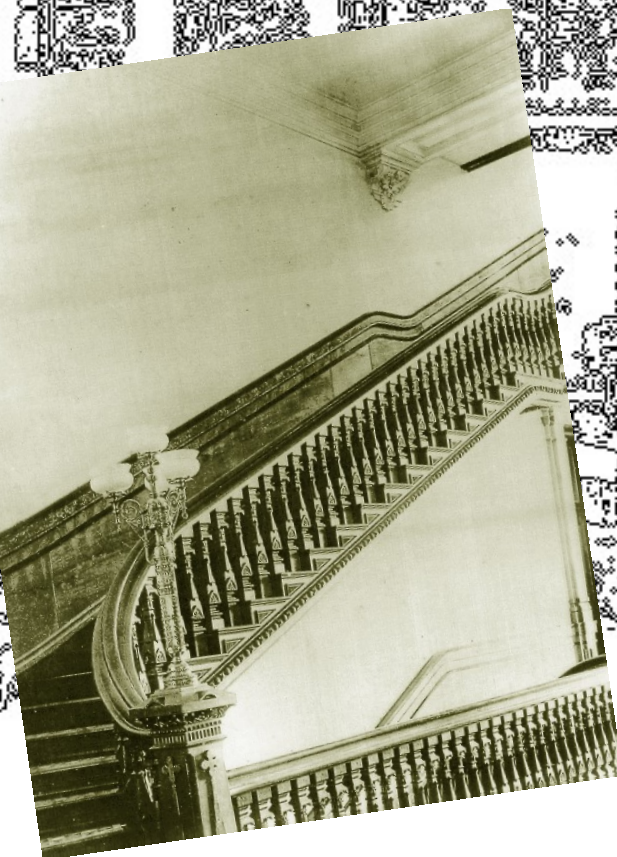
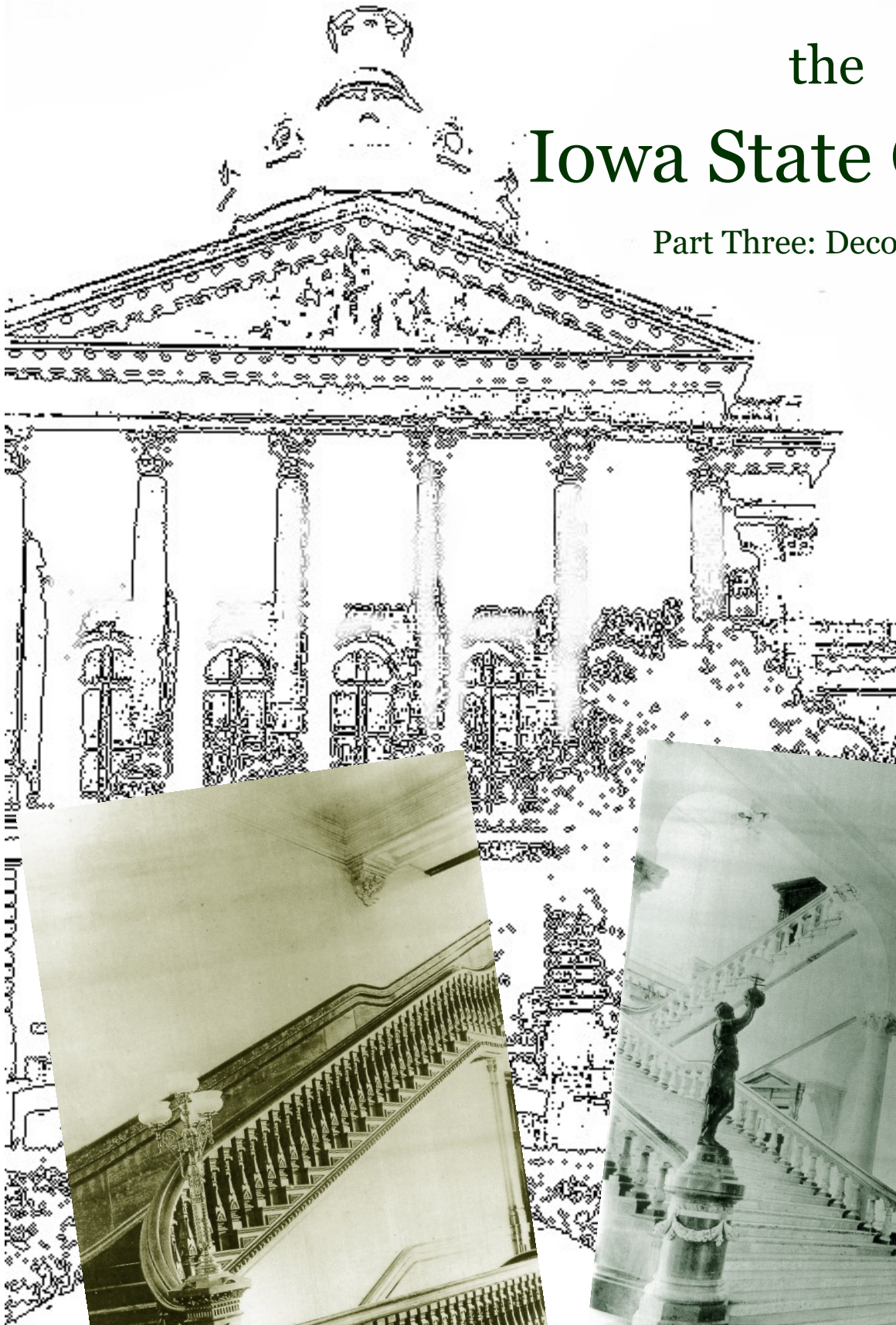


Constructing the Iowa State Capitol

Part Three: Decorations





GRAND STAIRWAY.

Constructing the Iowa State Capitol

Part Three: Decorations

CHAPTER EIGHT

Completing the Building

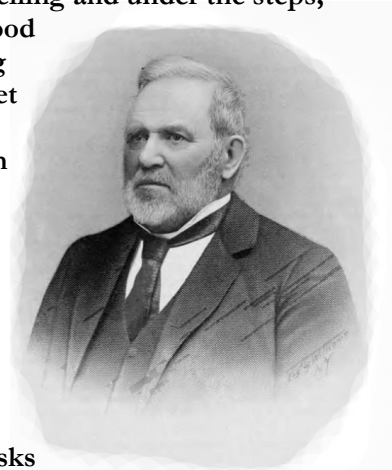
In 1886, Robert Finkbine, Superintendent of Construction, submitted to the Board of Capitol Commissioners a summary report of the work completed in 1884 and 1885. This report also included a description of the remaining work for both the interior and exterior and his estimated cost of completing the building.

“There remains to be done to complete the building on the exterior the cleaning and pointing of all the exterior walls, the putting in place the west and south flights of steps, with the lamp posts and, lamps for the same; the plastering to the south portico ceiling and under the steps, and painting the small domes. Of inside work there remains the wood work to the Horticultural rooms, and the basement story, excepting the six rooms now done, with the hard oil finish of all wood work yet to do; the marble wainscoting in the basement corridors; the hard oil finish in the Agricultural rooms, Supreme Court room, and room now occupied by the custodian. There remains the frescoing in the Agricultural and Horticultural rooms, the custodian’s room, the corridors of the first floor, the second floor rotunda, and lobbies in the rear of the House and Senate.

“In furnishing there remains desks for the Land Office, press stands for all the offices, the tables, desks and cases for the Agricultural and Horticultural rooms, furniture for the room occupied by the custodian, carpets for the Agricultural and Horticultural rooms and the Supreme Court room, and the clerks and Judges desks in the Supreme Court room. Some additional furniture as developed by the needs of the office is required in each of the offices.

“It was thought at the time of making my last report that furniture and carpet could be had from the offices of the old capitol sufficient for the basement story. When the room for the Auditor was completed in the basement (it being the smallest of the basement rooms) It was found that the largest of the carpets in the old building was too small to cover it. The chairs and desks brought from the old capitol, with the exception of two desks, will not stand the continued heat in the new building, so not only carpet but furniture made to stand the temperatures of the new building must be provided for the offices located in the basement.

“Appended is a statement of the material purchased during the years 1884 and 1886, excepting the minor items too numerous to detail, all of which are shown in the bills on file with the Secretary. A statement of the furniture purchased and made. Also an estimate of the cost of finishing and furnishing the building.”



Respectfully submitted,
R. S. Finkbine, *Superintendent.*

ESTIMATE OF AMOUNT REQUIRED TO COMPLETE AND FURNISH THE NEW CAPITOL.

Due on steam heating contract.....	\$ 8,860.18
Due on elevator.....	3,730.00
Amount required to complete exterior work.....	16,015.00
Amount required to complete engineer's house.....	872.00
Amount to finish horticultural rooms.....	1,200.00
Amount to fresco rooms and corridors.....	11,400.00
Marble work in basement.....	7,750.00
Wood work and lumber.....	9,320.45
Hardware, nails and glass.....	1,331.00
Hard oil finish and painting.....	3,500.00
Electric work.....	300.00
Vault door in basement.....	185.00
Plastering and finish under entrance steps.....	650.00
Total.....	\$ 65,313.63

FURNISHING.

Carpets, office story.....	\$ 1,800.00
Window shades.....	120.00
Furniture, Sup. Ct. room.....	1,050.00
Furniture, agricultural room.....	3,200.00
Furniture, horticultural room.....	2,500.00
Furniture, custodian's room.....	1,800.00
Library.....	1,000.00
Furniture, other offices.....	3,000.00
Total, office story.....	\$ 14,470.00

BASEMENT STORY FURNITURE.

Carpets.....	\$ 2,757.00
Shades and fixtures.....	183.00
Tables, desks and chairs.....	7,210.00
Shelving and cases in store rooms.....	1,500.00
Vault shelving and cases.....	900.00
Total, basement	\$ 12,540.00

SUMMARY.

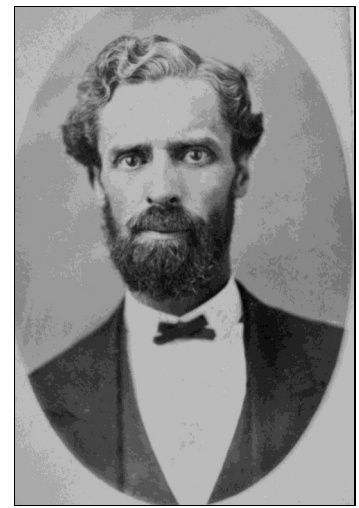
To complete building.....	\$ 65,313.63
To furnish first story.....	14,470.00
To furnish basement.....	12,540.00
Total.....	\$ 92,323.63
Unexpended balance, February 3, 1886.....	\$43,815.15
Cash on hand.....	3,774.20—
	47,189.35
Balance required.....	\$ 45,234.28
To which must be added the cost of superstructure.	

Unexpended balance of special appropriation for street paving and sidewalks on February 3, 1886, was \$8,177.11, which will be sufficient to complete the work for which it was appropriated.

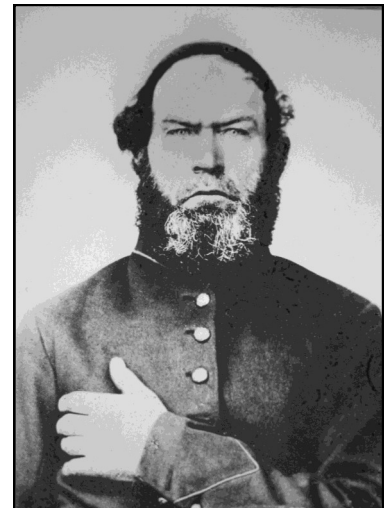
Some of the interior work received funding, but the Capitol Commission did not receive the funding necessary to complete the south and west steps on the exterior, nor did the funding include the money to finish the decorative painting in the rooms on the ground floor and in less public areas on second and third floor or the main hallways on the first and second floors. The estimated cost to complete this work was about \$30,000.

The Legislature assigned the responsibility for the care and maintenance of the building to the custodian. Under the Capitol Commission, this duty had been assigned to the Secretary of the Board of Capitol Commissioners, Ed Wright. After the Capitol Commission was dissolved, Mr. Wright continued as the Custodian of Public Buildings and Property until December 1890. Through the 1890s, the Custodian of Public Buildings and Property, E. W. Crellin, served through 1892, and W. L. Carpenter through 1894. George Metzger served through 1898, and J. D. Mc Garraugh through 1902. These men continued the work of “finishing” the Capitol.

The west and south steps, constructed of granite from Maine, were set by James Locke and completed in November 1891. The Legislature awarded the contract to J. Weidenmann for landscaping the Capitol grounds in February 1885. The estimated cost of improving the Capitol grounds did not include the several thousand dollars necessary for providing the statuary. The Executive Council entered into separate contracts for the statuary allowing the work to be completed in 1892.



Edward Wright



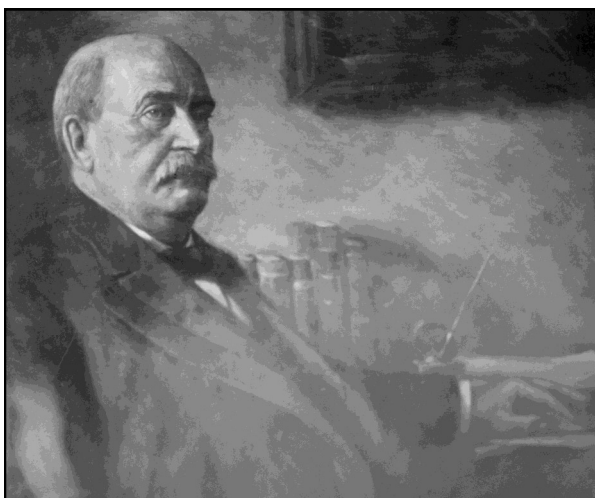
Joe McGarraugh



West and south Capitol steps not yet constructed, circa 1884

By the late 1890s, the building remained unfinished. Proper maintenance in many areas went unfunded, and the state realized the necessity of fulfilling their obligation to finish the building and maintain the Capitol properly.

In 1900, the Twenty-eighth General Assembly passed an Act creating a Capitol Improvement Commission whose responsibilities were to investigate repairs and improvements for the Capitol and report their findings to the Governor.



William Lytle Carpenter

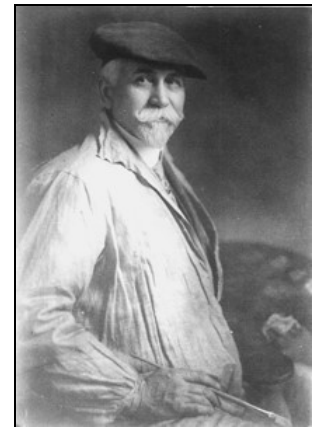


Jacob Weidenmann

The Capitol Commissioners, Peter Dey, who served on the earlier Capitol Commission during construction; Charles Atherton Cumming, a prominent Des Moines artist; and Henry Saville Josselyn, an Iowa architect, met for the first time in Des Moines, on January 4, 1901, and proceeded with their “investigation as to the repairs and improvements needed inside and outside of the capitol building and the property of the state connected therewith.”



Peter Dey



Charles A. Cumming
Iowa artist

The Capitol Commissioners traveled to Chicago, Indianapolis, and then to Washington D.C., where they devoted “a good deal of time to the public buildings.” The new congressional library was the inspiration for the decorative work and the artists that would adorn the Iowa Capitol.

Their report covering the estimated cost of decorations, modern elevators, electric lighting, fire and burglar alarms, roof repairs, repairs to the boiler house, and the construction of a fireproof warehouse totaled \$234,950.

In addition, there were many other repairs and updates suggested: re-gilding the dome, repairing outside steps, repairs to furniture, tile floors, and updating heating and ventilation.

This commission, by submitting the report of their investigations, essentially completed its duties assigned by the Legislature and so dissolved.

The Twenty-ninth General Assembly passed an Act in 1902 creating a commission to superintend the completion and repairs to the Capitol. The Commissioners were to be appointed to a four year term.

The Commissioners, appointed in accordance with the provisions of Iowa Code Chapter 179, held their first meeting July 1, 1902. A. B. Funk was elected President of the Commission and E.P. Schoentgen was named as temporary Secretary. Charles Atherton Cumming was appointed to this commission also.

The Commission appointed J. R. Crawshaw to superintend the repairs and improvements. Mr. Crawshaw served as master mechanic under the original Capitol Commission responsible for the Capitol construction 1871-1886. Crampton L. Linley was appointed the supervising engineer for the mechanical and electrical equipment. Frank D. Harsh began his engagement as the permanent Secretary for the Commission on October 1, 1902.

The Commissioners realized the initial estimates were well below the actual cost of many of the needed repairs. Replacing the roof would cost more because the pitch of the roof required the use of copper. The location of the warehouse changed resulting in additional \$8,405 for the project.



E. P. Schoentgen
Architect

Many of the projects overlapped, and this required work to take place simultaneously. The Commissioner’s reports state, “It was impractical to install the heating, lighting and ventilating systems or elevators separately, for the reason that each is dependent on the other. Furthermore, these contracts could not be divided without much additional damage by repeated breaches in the construction of the building. Openings that could be made available for the several systems would have to be made for each if put in separately.” The Commissioners moved forward with their work, relying on the Legislature to fund the project fully.



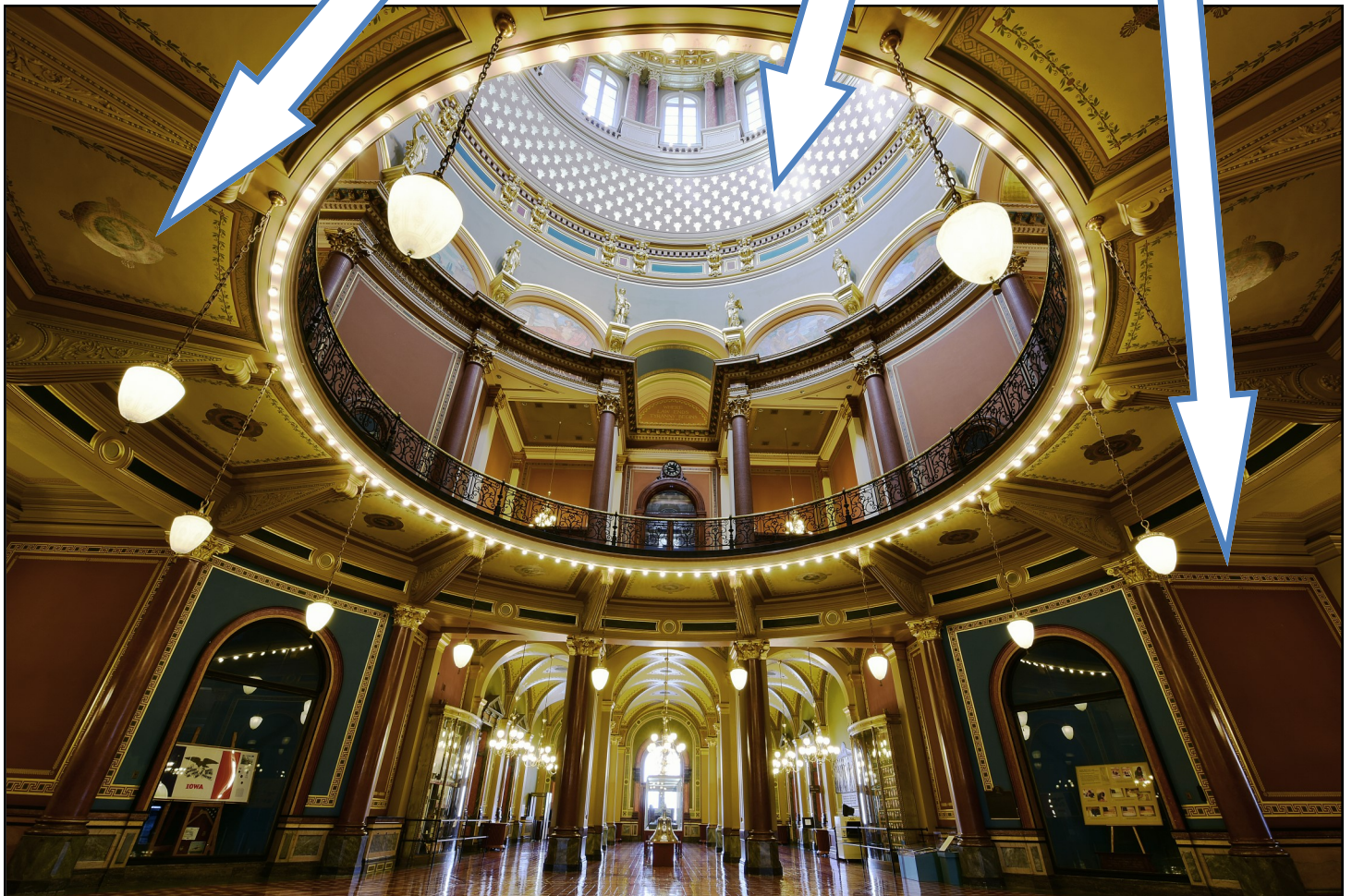
Abraham B. Funk
Iowa Senator and journalist

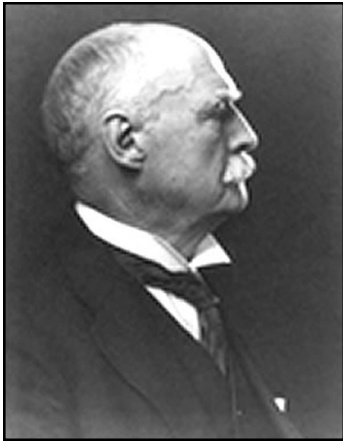


Elmer Garnsey

The second and equally important part of the Commission's work was to oversee the decorative work in the public hallways. The Commission relied on prominent artists to plan and execute the decoration of the public areas. The Commission looked to Elmer Garnsey as an authority in elements of color and design.

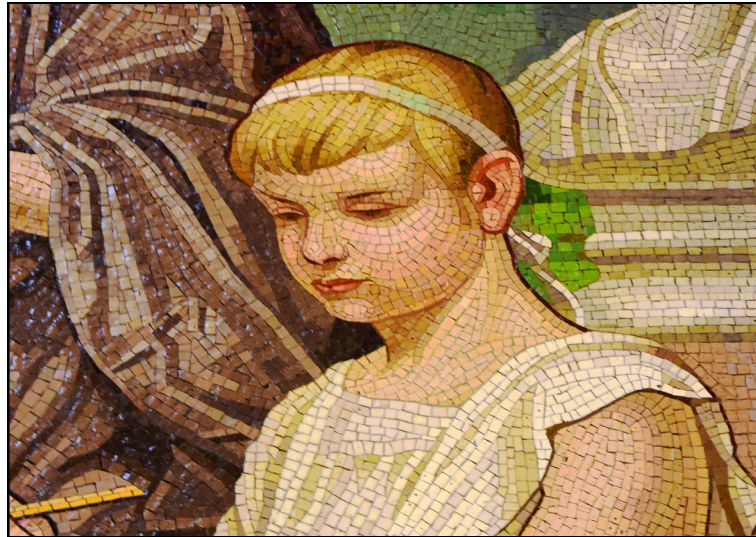
Elmer Garnsey designs





Fredrick Dielman

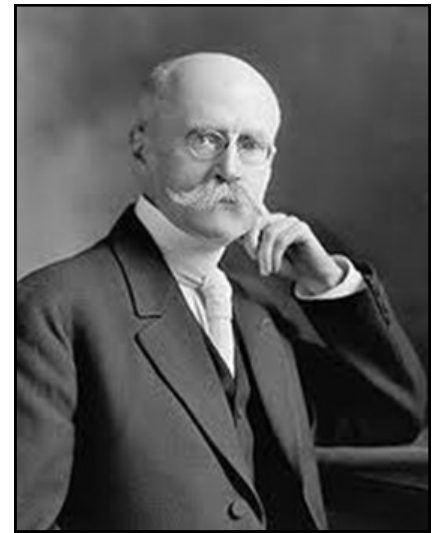
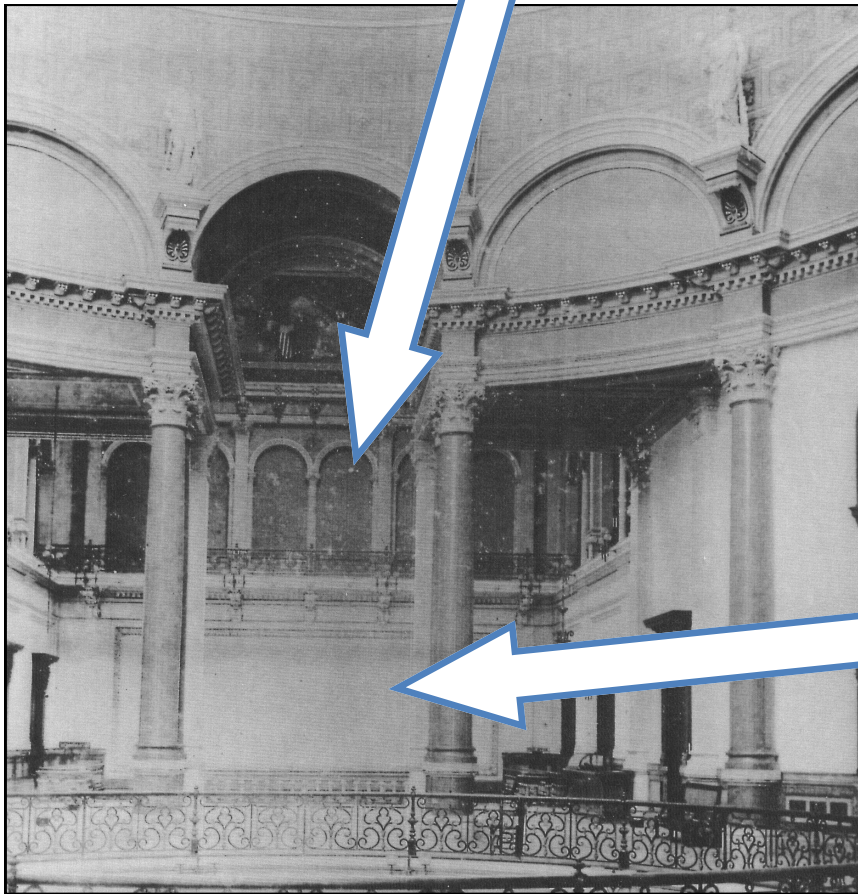
Fredrick Dielman also influenced the Commission with his report suggesting what types of decorations should be placed throughout the Capitol. Mr. Dielman at the time was President of the National Academy of Design.



Mosaics

Mr. Dielman designed the six mosaic panels for the space above *Westward*. In his letter to the commissioners he stated, "These six arched surfaces, by their form and position, make a natural center of interest to the observer on the landing and in the rotunda, and as such should be made particularly beautiful and interesting. The suggestion made by your commission, that these six spaces be filled by designs in mosaic, I find a very happy one."

Mr. Dielman's letter continues commenting on the rotunda and dome. "The semi-circular spaces over the great columns of the rotunda must be filled with pictorial subjects. On account of the distance from which these are seen the composition of these subjects should be large and simple, with figures of over life or heroic size." The Commission chose Keyon Cox to paint the eight lunettes occupying the semi-circular spaces.



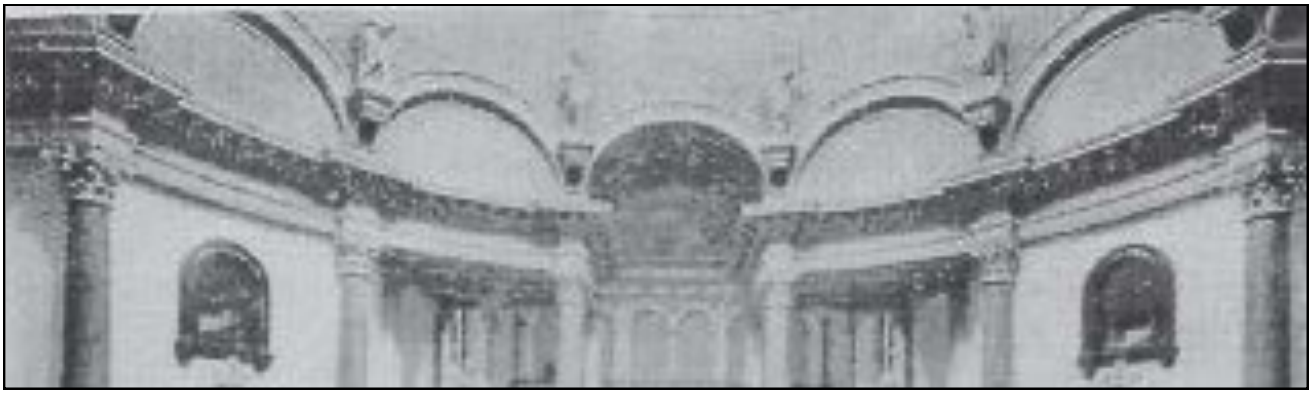
Edwin Blashfield

Before the mosaics were assembled and *Westward* was painted



Westward

The Commission decided the mural space, or what they referred to as the grand panel, should depict an Iowa scene rather than a Civil War battle. Edwin Blashfield created *Westward*, telling the story of the westward movement of the pioneers. It is worth noting the report also states, "A crack in the east wall of the grand staircase had for years baffled engineers and architects. Experiments were made in the endeavor to repair the same, but it was finally held to be utterly unsafe to mount thereon the Blashfield painting. Hence, a suspended wall was made to cover the entire panel."



Before the Lunettes were painted



Kenyon Cox



Lunettes



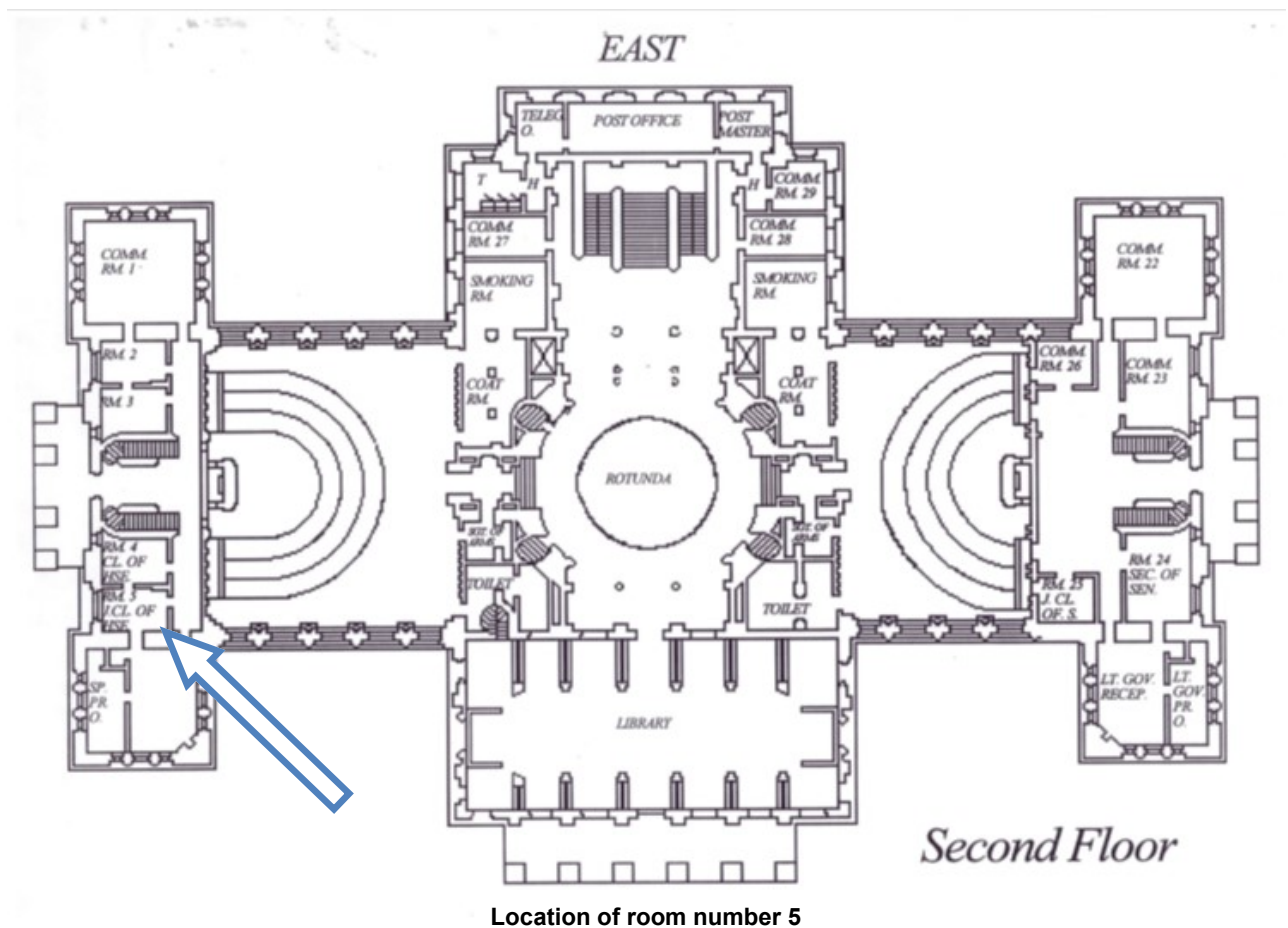
Capitol fire on January 4, 1904

It could not have been foreseen that during the 1902 to 1906 Commission's work a fire would damage the north wing of the Capitol on January 4, 1904. Part of the Commission's responsibility was to install electric lighting throughout the Capitol. Original ventilation shafts were used to channel the electric conduit. A workman, in committee room 5 behind the House of Representatives, using a candle to light his way, carelessly left his candle burning, and the fire burned up into the attic and swept across the ceiling of the House chamber. The ceiling of the House of Representatives collapsed to the floor below. The structural damage was confined to the ceiling of the House, but smoke and water damage spread to all the floors of the north wing of the Capitol.

On March 10, 1906, the Capitol Commissioners wrote the following about the fire: "Had adequate fire protection been provided, the loss would have been inconsiderable, but from the fact that water had to be carried a distance of about 1,500 feet the nearest available hydrant, in hose winding about the building to the point of need, by friction, so reduced the pressure as to make the flow entirely inadequate to subdue the flames. The fire burned itself out when no more combustible material was within its reach, when the system of fire protection now in the course of installation shall be completed, it is believed that no such calamity can occur in the Capitol."



House of Representatives Chamber after the fire



Location of room number 5

Had the work of restoration been performed in the same manner as the original construction, the loss could not have reached the sum of \$100,000, but the Commission having been ordered by the Legislature to adopt fire proof methods in reconstruction, the amount expended in repairs to the building and to furniture and fixtures is approximately \$120,000, the amount expended to date being \$108,410.22.

An emergency appropriation of \$8,000 was made by the General Assembly to cover the cost of temporary repairs necessary to the occupancy of the hall of the House during the session about to open. Of this sum, the amount of



Crampton L. Linley

After investigation on the part of a joint legislative committee, and upon estimates furnished by the Capitol Commission, the Legislature appropriated the sum of \$126,000 for the restoration and repair of the property destroyed or damaged by fire, and for the purpose of providing additional fire protection for the building.”

The Thirtieth General Assembly made an additional appropriation of \$82,740. The contracts for restoration of the House of Representatives, and the Speaker’s rooms and committee rooms damaged by the fire were awarded to Grahl-Peterson Company of Des Moines and F. Herman & Son of Council Bluffs.

The Commissioners also acknowledged, “the untimely and deplorable death C. L. Linley our consulting engineer on mechanical equipment, heating and ventilating, the day after the fire in the north wing, was a loss to the world, and a serious embarrassment to the work of the Commission. Appointed by Governor Cummins to assume charge of the wrecked house, in the absence of the Commission, he was on a tour of inspection in the energetic discharge of his duties when he fell from the attic to the House floor, meeting almost instant death. The Commission feels that his heroic and thoughtful conduct at the time of the fire, by crawling on his hands and knees in

dense smoke through an air duct in the attic, and closing a connecting door, had much to do with confining the fire to the north wing of the Capitol.” Crampton Linley was born in Australia in 1870. He was 33 at the time of his death. It is interesting to note Mr. Linley’s pall bearers were Capitol Commissioners Funk, Cumming, and Schoentgen; Secretary Harsh, contractors Catlin and Kurtz; and Thomas Rattenberg, whose name does not appear in Commission reports.

In addition to the fine art added to the building, the Commissioners decorated arches and alcoves with quotations suggested by Governor Cummins.

FIRST FLOOR

North side as you enter from the east

“Law is the embodiment of the moral sentiment of the people” Blackstone

In the middle:

“Iowa – our eyes have been permitted to behold only the beginnings of her glory” – Kirkwood

On the south side

“Justice is the idea of God, the ideal of man” – Parker

On the north side entering from the west

“Education is a better safeguard of liberty than a standing army”

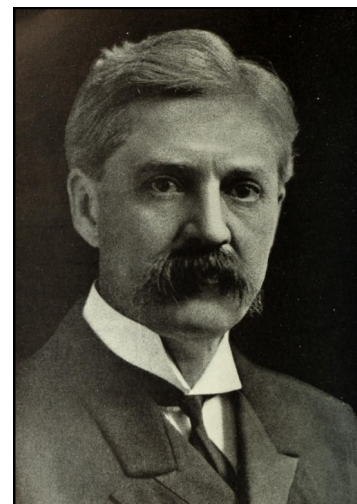
Edward Everett

In the middle

“Iowa – The affections of her people like the rivers of her border flow on to an inseparable union.” Enoch Eastman

On the south side

“Nothing is politically right which is morally wrong.” Daniel O’Connell



Governor Albert Cummins

SECOND FLOOR

Above the grand staircase, facing west

South side:

No free government or the blessings of liberty can be preserved to any people but by a firm adherence to justice, moderation, temperance, frugality and virtue and by a frequent recurrence to fundamental principles.” Patrick Henry

North side

“Courageous confidence in the intelligence of the community is the sure sign of leadership and success.” G. W. Curtis.

North side underneath

“The ideal state – that in which an injury done to the least of its citizens is an injury done to all.” Solon

West corridor above law library door

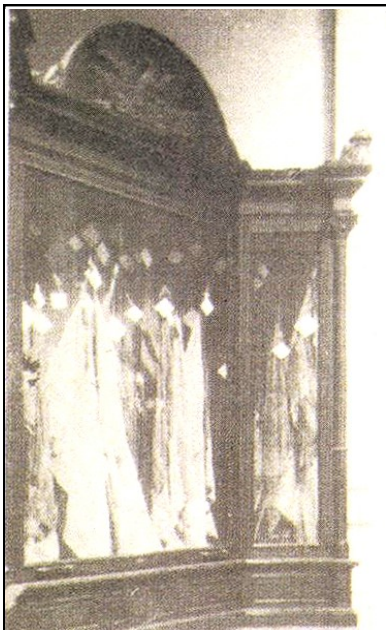
“Where law ends tyranny begin.” William Pitt

Around rotunda on frieze above the columns

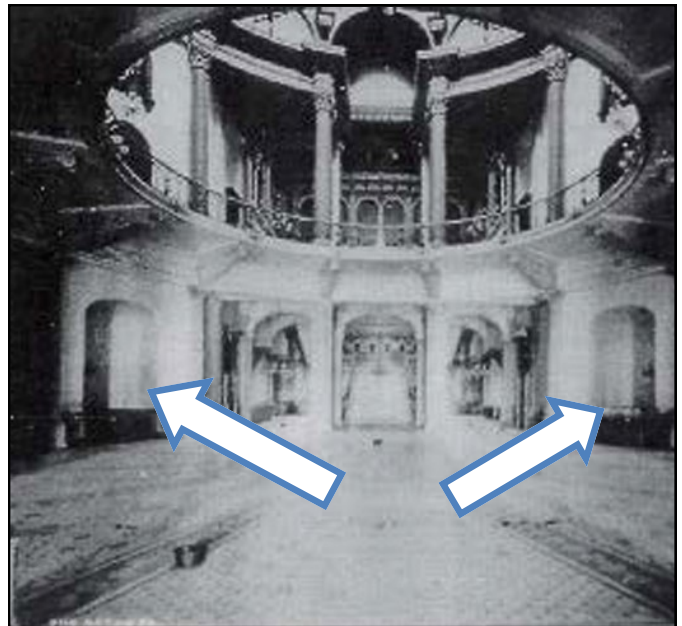
“This nation under God shall have a new birth of freedom, that government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth.” Abraham Lincoln



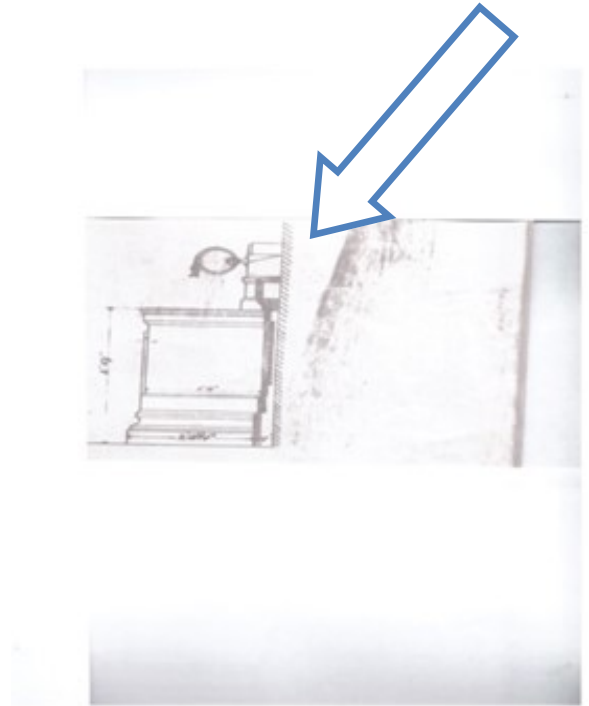
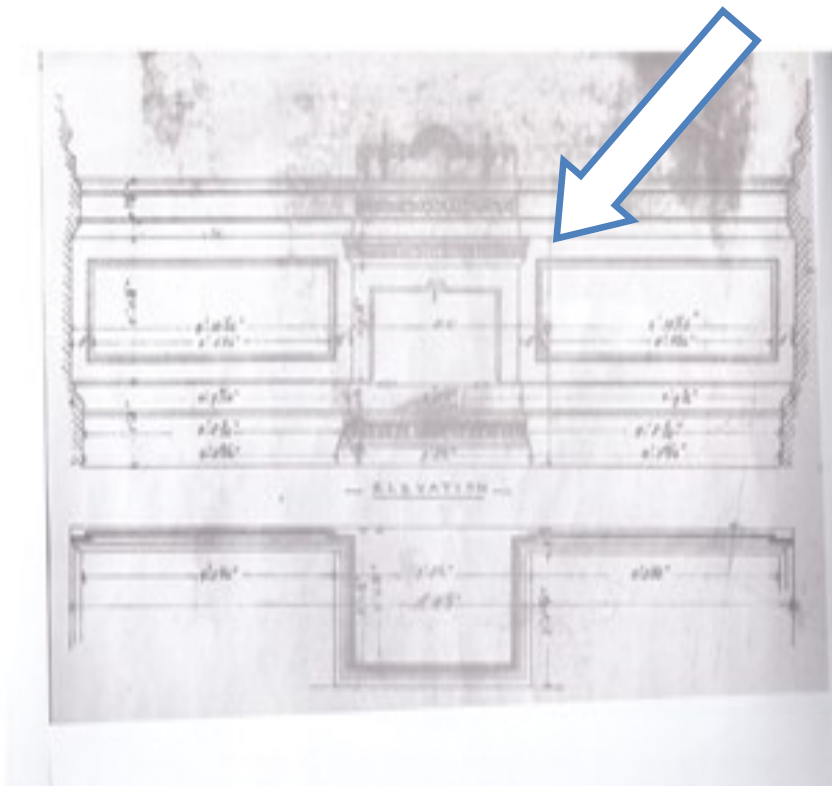
The Commission’s work went beyond original reports of needed repairs. The public restrooms were updated and decorated. The wood and glass cases on the second floor that housed the Civil War Flag collection were removed and the niches around the rotunda on the first floor were made suitable to display the battle flag collection. The marble drinking fountains had fallen into disrepair and unsightly tin water coolers had been used in their stead. In order to make the marble drinking fountains useable the Commissioners installed “new lead lined boxes and specially designed bronze goose neck faucets, through which cool drinking water flows.”



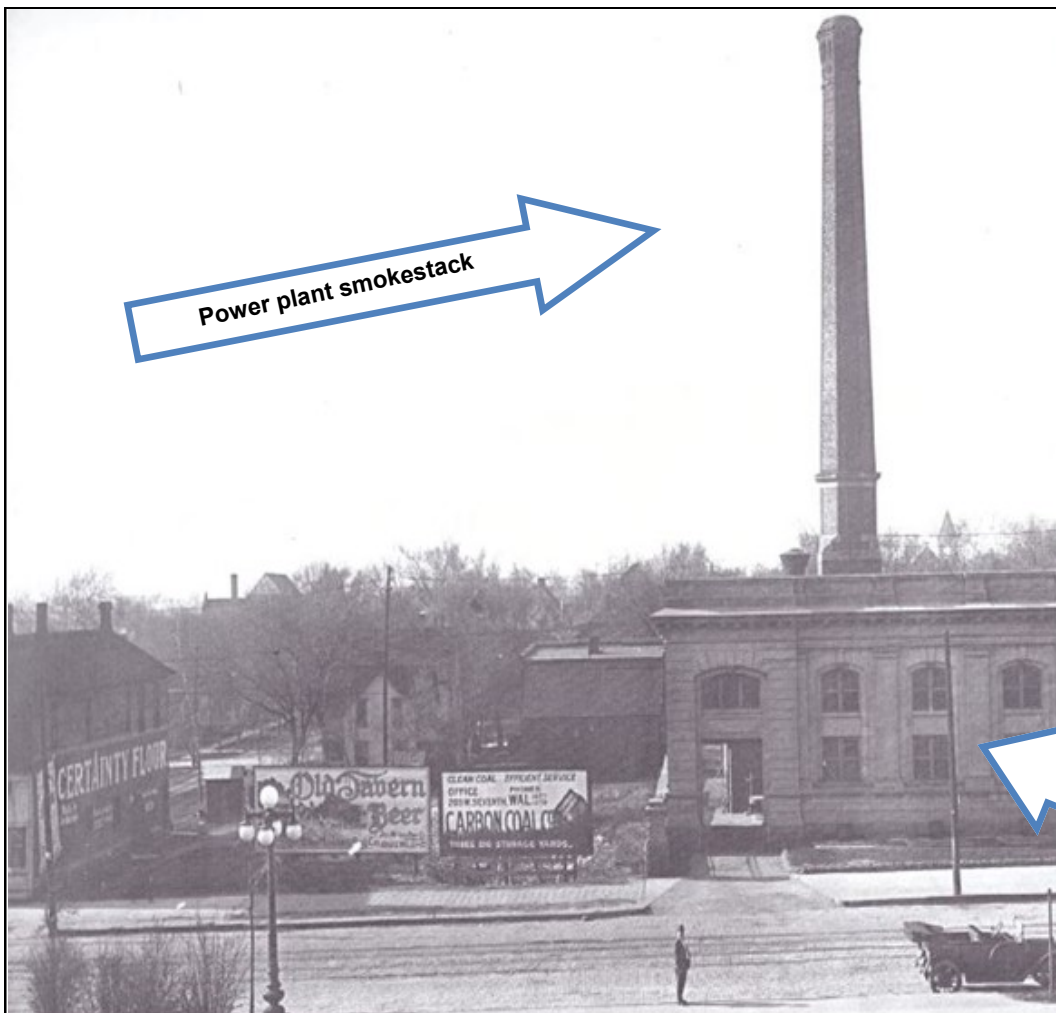
Original Civil War Battle Flag case just outside the library door on the second floor rotunda



First floor niches before the installation of the Civil War Battle Flag collection



Drinking fountain blueprints



Power plant smokestack

Paper warehouse

A summary of the Capitol Commission's work helps us to understand what significant changes were made to the building between 1902- 1907:

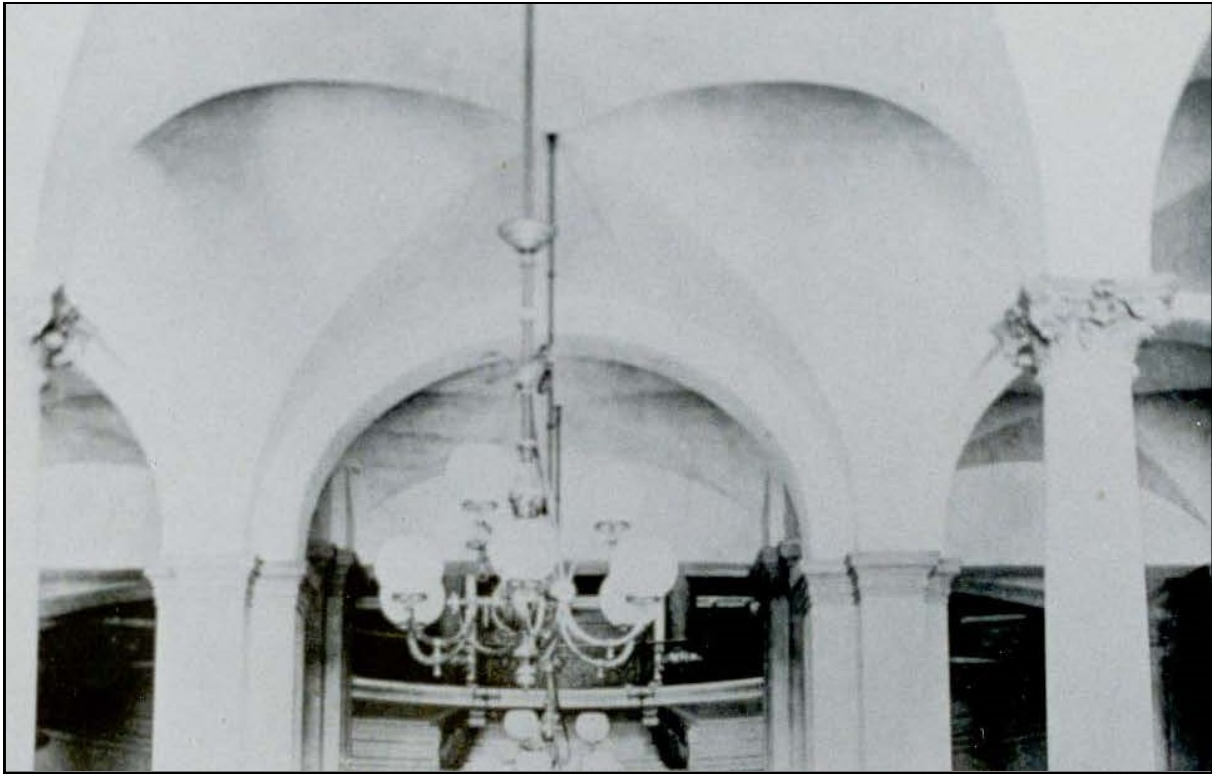
- Built the new paper warehouse.
- Installed electric elevators.
- Altered and augmented the heating plant.
- Removed the original slate roof and replaced it with copper.
- Installed electricity and new electric fixtures.
- Repaired 360 window frames.
- Repaired granite steps and granite coping supporting the terraces.
- Gilded the dome.
- Repaired and patched some exterior sandstone.
- Replaced white marble tile floors in the basement with terrazzo floors.
- Upgraded ventilation.
- Repaired furniture.
- Added cement floors in the attic.
- Replaced cement floors in the subbasement.
- Replaced some gallery chairs.
- Completed decorative painting in the public hallways and rooms behind the House and Senate chambers. Commission reports refer to this as mural decoration.
- Added the art in the public areas: *Westward*, six lunettes, and mosaic panels. Commission reports refer to this as pictorial decoration.
- Completed all the repairs resulting from the 1904 fire.
- Upgraded plumbing and plumbing fixtures.
- Removed the center stained glass above the grand stairway to allow more light for the newly added artwork.
- Covered the crack in the east wall behind *Westward*.
- Repaired the marble drinking fountains.
- Redesigned the first floor niches making them suitable for the Civil War Battle Flags.

The Capitol Commission submitted what should have been their final report on March 10, 1906. On October 18, 1907, the Commissioners sent a supplemental report to Governor Cummins. The Commission had been waiting on Frederick Dielman to complete his mosaic panels.

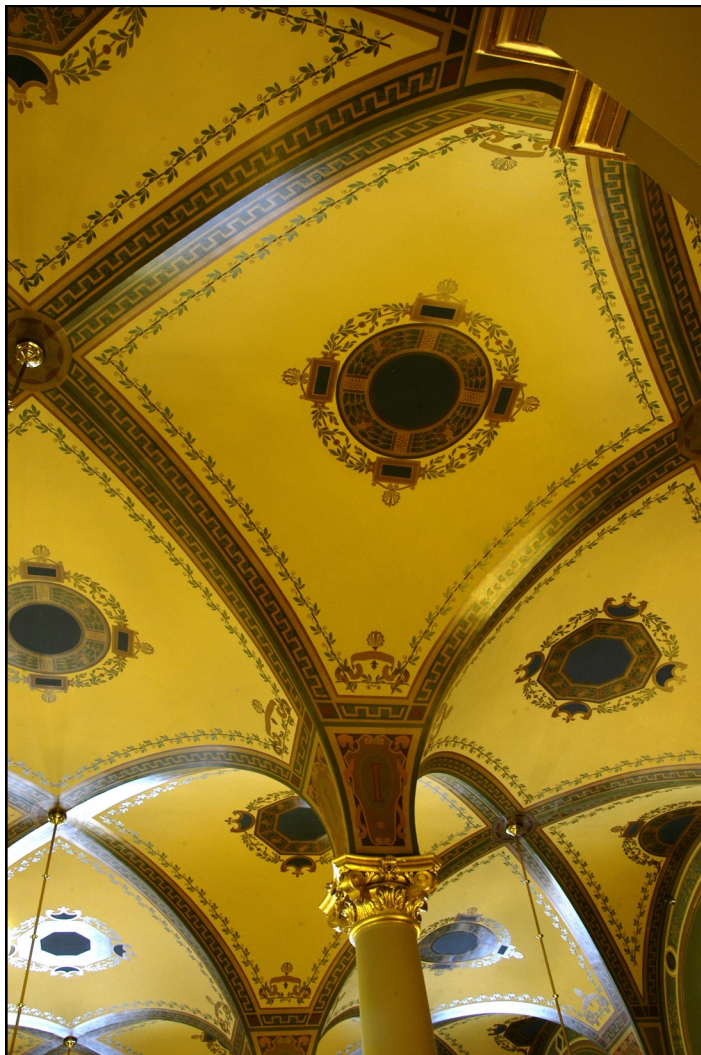
The final paragraph reads: "At the date of the last report, it was the purpose of the Commission to complete its labors before the first of July, 1906. This was not practicable for the reason that the art work of Frederick Dielman, though contracted for in advance of all other pictorial work, was not ready for delivery. Since that date, the Commission has existed, at expense merely nominal, to permit us to fulfill our obligation with Mr. Dielman and the State, in the acceptance and installation of the mosaic panels."

Included was a letter thanking Governor Cummins for his "helpful cooperation." The letter then tendered the resignations of Commissioners A. B. Funk, Chas. A. Cumming, and E. P. Schoentgen effective immediately, thus dissolving the Commission.

The Twenty-ninth and Thirtieth General Assemblies appropriated \$458,740 for the work of the Capitol Commission bringing the cost of the Capitol to approximately \$3,300,000.



First floor corridor ceiling from the main entrance in 1885



CHAPTER NINE

Newspaper Articles

The Des Moines Register

Sunday, June 8, 1902

Completing Iowa's Capitol

The members of the commission charged with the duty of directing the expenditure of about a quarter of a million dollars for completion of the Iowa state capitol has been named by Governor Cummins. He has named Senator A. B. Funk of Spirit Lake, Charles A. Cumming of Des Moines, and Edward P. Schoentgen of Council Bluffs. All are comparatively young men; none of them has had to do with the construction of the building, all are plain, practical men of affairs, who will fairly represent Iowa people in this responsible undertaking.

No changes in architecture are suggested in relation to the Iowa capitol: it is beyond criticism. The engineering and building problems have been well wrought out and there is nothing to be undone and worked over. The repairs necessary are incident only to the wear of time. The manner in which the capitol is to be finished has been outlined and the general principles of decoration are well defined. The work of the commission is to do that which has been

planned. There is wide discretion in some matters and close limitations in others: and perhaps there will arise some knotty problems over which controversy will be easy, but on the whole the work will be easy compared with the work before the builders of the capitol.

This completion of Iowa's capitol must be a work of love for those who engage in it. The legislature, by providing only nominal compensation, had this in mind. But if the work of completion and decoration of the great state house, which is already the pride of Iowa, is in accordance with the expectations of the Iowa people—and with this commission and Governor Cummins there can be no doubt of this—then there will be ample compensation for the labors of the commissioners in the praise of uncouth millions who will point to the Iowa capitol as the work of a great people, the seat of government of a splendid state, a monument to the home-loving people of a representative midland commonwealth.

CAPITOL WORK NOT AN ORDINARY JOB

SENATOR FUNK TESTIFIES IN

REQUIRES A MAN OF SKILL

CHAMBERLAIN SAYS ACTION IS

Funk Declares Artist Will Do Work
As Economically as Fine Decoration

The apparent incompetency of the average unskilled decorator to properly do the work of placing the mural decorations in the state capitol was the main point of the evidence brought out by the defense yesterday in the hearing of the suit brought by W. J. Chamberlain against the Iowa Capitol commission to prevent the New York artist, E. E. Garnsey, from attempting to commence his contract in the decorating of the state house.

Senator A. B. Funk of Spirit Lake, chairman of the capitol commission, was the first of the witnesses of the defense to be placed on the stand. He told in narrative of the preparations made by the members of the commission for the decorating of the building and of the conclusions drawn by them that they were exceptionally fortunate in being able to secure the services of such a talented and skilled person as Mr. Garnsey to do the work.

"We went on a tour of investigation of several of the larger cities of the east," said Mr. Funk, "where we were careful in the examination of several of the largest buildings and the ones considered the most remarkable because of their particularly great architectural and artistic beauty. The congressional library at Washington, which was pointed out to us as perhaps the finest building from that point of view on the continent, the court of appeals in New York and the public library at Boston were three of the buildings visited. These we were informed were decorated by Mr. Garnsey and from the result of our observations we were not certain that we would be able to secure Mr. Garnsey's services.

"The work and knowledge of it was beyond my practical knowledge but the other members of the board, Mr. Cummings and Mr. Schoentgen, artist and architect, were able to judge of the capabilities of Mr. Garnsey and their opinion was voiced in his favor.

Not Ordinary Work.

"Knowing that the work required at the state capitol was above that which could be produced by an ordinary decorator, we had no other intention in mind than the securing of a person who would render up his art

for the completion of his contract. We have always regarded the work as being above the skill required of the ordinary painter, brick mason or carpenter, and as going beyond the skill of the ordinary artisan to the completed finish of the artist who has made art his life work.

"We found this in Mr. Garnsey and had no thought but of the economical expenditure of the funds entrusted to us and the proper performance of our commission."

Mr. Funk also stated that he and Mr. Cummings had visited the state capitol at St. Paul, where they viewed the work performed by Mr. Garnsey and there began the arrangements for the signature of his contract.

Attorney Henry Griffith, who is conducting the prosecution of the injunction suit, placed Mr. Chamberlain on the stand in the opening of his evidence and showed that his client had brought the suit in the behalf of the tax-payers of the state because he wished the work at the capitol done by competitive bids and not by the letting of a single contract.

He stated that he had no extended knowledge of mural decoration but that he believed that the work was of an ordinary decoration and needed the services of a painter rather than an artist.

The Des Moines Register

Friday, January 8, 1904

FIX HOUSE HALL IN TWELVE DAYS

**Legislature Will Convene To
Organize and Adjourn For
a Week.**

HOUSE IN SENATE HALL

Supreme Court Room To Be
Occupied By Senate For Purpose
of Organization.

At a joint caucus of both houses of the Thirtieth general assembly held at Grant club last night, the senate graciously voted upon the motion of Senator C. C. Dowell of Des Moines, to vacate its chamber to the house, temporarily, and the capitol commission submitted the report which will be made to the executive council, apropos of repairing the house chamber for temporary use inside of two or three weeks.

Lieutenant Governor Herriott presided over the joint caucus and Representative C. A. Wise of Black Hawk was made chairman of the house section of the caucus in the absence of G. W. Clarke.

About a hundred senators and representatives were gathered in the assembly room of the club and transacted business with wonderful rapidity.

After the submission of the report of the capitol commission, which was read by Senator A. B. Funk, Senator Dowell moved that it was the sense of the caucus that the executive council proceed at once to repair the house chamber and committee rooms, and that the caucus use what influence it might possess to secure the necessary appropriation. The

lieutenant governor was instructed to notify the governor and executive council of the action that had been taken.

Can Be Done in Two Weeks, Thinks Commission.

The report of the improvement commission relative to repairing the house legislative hall in about two weeks' time follows:

To the Executive Council of the State of Iowa.

In pursuant of your request and instructions, the Capitol Commission submits the following:

We were charged with the duty of clearing the rubbish created by the fire in the north wing of the capitol, of removing all elements of peril to workmen, and to ascertain particularly as to whether or not the structural conditions are such as to make safe the occupancy of the hall of the house of representatives should temporary repairs be made for this purpose.

Owing to the short time permitted for investigation, it has been impossible to give scrutiny to every detail of the structural iron work. We are prepared to say, however, that experts who have gone over the construction assure us that nothing more than minor defects exist—defects that may be remedied within a few days and while other repairs are being made.

The next point of most importance is the time required to place the hall in condition for occupancy by the house of representatives. It is difficult to make anything like exact calculation as this point. There is a

good deal of work to do in the treatment of the structural iron, a temporary ceiling is required, many new desks are to be supplied, new windows are to be placed, and a great deal of work, difficult to diagram in this connection, must be done. We have given a good deal of consideration to the matter of a temporary ceiling. It naturally occurred that it should be made of boards, which would require a large amount of expense and labor in the matter of staging. The suggestion has been made by a member of the general assembly that this temporary ceiling be of heavy canvas. The more consideration we have given to this suggestion, the more practicable it would appear. It can be layed in at much less expense and in much less time than if constructed of boards.

We have assumed that if it were thought best to occupy this room during the session, no attempt at adornment would be expected, and that only the plainest kind of repairs to the end of comfortable conditions, would be desired, that time and needless expense could be avoided. In our judgment if a wooden ceiling is put in, not less than three weeks will be required to place the hall in condition for use. If, however, the cloth ceiling is adopted, we believe the work can be done within a limit of from twelve to fifteen days.

It is impossible to make anything like close calculation as to the cost of these repairs. It is believed, however, that with board ceiling, the cost would not exceed \$5,000; and with cloth ceiling, nor more than \$3,500. Of course we do not announce these figures as being anything more than approximate, as guess work necessarily entered largely into the calculation.

We regret that, owing to the great haste in the collection of information made necessary by the early demand for this report, the general confusion prevailing, and the pressure upon our time and thought on account of other duties, this report is not more definite

A. B. Funk,

C. A. Cumming,

F. E. Schoentgen.

Des Moines, Ia., January 7, 1904.

In explaining his report, Senator Funk laid stress on one point which may yet alter conditions as to the preliminary meetings of the senate and house. The opinion of the bridge experts, he said, was not definitely made up as to the condition of the structural work. Their report was made upon the supposition that this work was all right. If not, then their conclusions will have to be changed.

However, there is little likelihood that such change will be necessary. The plan now is to hold the preliminary meetings in the senate chamber and in the room of the supreme court, as advised on the day of the fire by Governor Cummins.

Workmen were busy yesterday in arranging seats in the senate chamber and will go to work at once to do the same thing in the supreme court room. Here the officers will be installed and the initial session of the Thirtieth General assembly will be held.

Then an adjournment of a week, not an unusual thing, will be taken. After that, the meetings will be held in the temporary quarters until the house chamber shall have been prepared in temporary form, and made comfortable.

The inaugural plans have not been changed. It will take place on Thursday, January 14, as originally planned.

The procession will start from the state house in the afternoon and march to Foster's opera house. Here admission will be only to members and their friends.

In the evening the governor's reception will be held in the executive chambers of the state house, for which the Mitchellville or-

state industrial school, will furnish the music.

For the procession, Adjutant General Byers and Dr. Geo. A. Newman, the music committee, selected the Des Moines band. This musical organization will march in the procession and a few pieces will furnish orchestral music at the opera house.

CAPITOL ARCHITECT HERE.

Man Who Built the State House Will Look Over Ruins.

M. E. Bell, supervising architect of the treasury department, the man who built the Iowa state capitol, arrived in Des Moines last night.

Mr. Bell said he could not stay away when he heard of the fire in the capitol and came here as quickly as possible. He had not seen the ruins, having but registered at the Savery when seen by a representative of the Register and Leader at 11 o'clock last night.

"Not having seen the building," said Mr. Bell, "I would not be in a position to form any estimate of the damage done. Of course, if it were repaired, it would probably not be replaced in its original form. And besides, the cost of material has changed a great deal since the time the capitol was built.

"In the meantime, we have learned a great deal about fire proof construction. We had a very inadequate knowledge of fire proof construction in those days. We thought that if we covered wood work over with plaster we had a fire proof building, but sad experience has demonstrated that plaster is not necessarily a protection against fire.

"Neither is cinder cement, for in many cases I have found that the cinders were made up largely of coals, from which the combustible qualities had not been removed. In fact, even now it is the problem of architects to build a fire proof building. "In this connection, I think we ought to devote some attention to putting

up more nearly fire proof school buildings. A large proportion of the state's money is being expended in the building of schools. Why not put up buildings that would be practically free from the danger of fire? Then we would have those buildings forever."

Apropos of the change in the cost of building materials in the past few years, Mr. Bell told of the cost involved in securing the iron work for the Illinois state capitol, which was built before the Iowa capitol was constructed.

"When we built the Illinois capitol," he explained, "we bought a great part of the iron, for steel could not be secured then, in Belgium, because we could get it cheaper. We had it shipped to New Orleans, and then it came up by Mississippi river transport to Cairo, and then on up to Springfield. It cost us a little over nine cents. When we built the Iowa capitol we got it for about \$.12 cents. Now it can be obtained for three cents."

Mr. Bell will visit the capitol today and will inspect the damage that has been done.

"I remember all the nooks and crannies in the building," he explained, "the general plan upon which it was built, etc., and I am anxious to see how it withstood the test of fire."

Interest In Fire.

E. H. Harlan, ex-county attorney of Van Buren county, was in the city yesterday and spoke of interest taken by the people of his neighborhood in the capitol fire. "The old soldiers were especially concerning regarding the safety of the relics, and Dan Pettit, a member of the Third Iowa cavalry, when he read of the total loss of the building was nearly frantic because of the supposed loss of the flag which he followed in the war."

The Des Moines Register

Friday, April 14, 1905

CONTRACT BEING CONSIDERED

Capitol Commission Investigating Bids On Gilding State House Dome.

The capitol improvement commission was in session yesterday considering the question of gilding the dome of the state house.

No contract has been let and it is said that the bids which have been received may be rejected by the commission at this meeting, although the matter may not be concluded at this session.

The estimate on this work was about \$20,000. The gilding of the domes is not in the Garnsey contract for decoration of the building, that contract being limited to the interior only.

The dome has not been regilded since the state house was built. Pure leaf gold is used. A portion of the great cost, however, is due to the special staging which must be erected for the workmen who coat the structure. The gold on the dome during the last ten years has looked quite shabby and some years ago the practice of washing it with soap and water, the only known means of keeping it clean, was abandoned for it seemed to be non-effective.

RAPID WORK ON DECORATIONS

Plaster of Paris Work in Legislative Chamber Very Beautiful.

The floors of the main corridors of the capitol have been covered with matting which will protect the tiling as the work of decorating the walls and the ceilings progresses. The decorating artist, Mr. Garnsey, was in conference with the capitol commission yesterday with respect to the work. It is moving along as rapidly as either he or the commission had anticipated.

The work of putting up the plaster of paris decorations for the ceiling of the house of representatives will be completed this week. This work is very handsome and the contractors have received many compliments from state officers and others who have climbed the precarious stairways to the ceiling to view it. It is obscured from those on the floor of the chamber because of the staging on which the work is being done. The house chamber will be infinitely more handsome than the senate chamber and it is not unlikely that the senate next winter will ask to have its covering reconstructed.

REQUIRE DIFFERENT MATERIAL

Capitol Commission to Enforce Contract On Scagliola Covering.

When the contractors for the scagliola covering for the eight pillars in the house of representatives were given the work by the capitol commission they agreed to construct a scagliola in exact imitation of Senna marble. A sample of this marble was examined by the contractors, and their bids were made on it. The sample did not have the certificate of character that it was, in fact, Senna marble, but it was said by those competent in such matters to be that material.

When the scagliola manufactured by the company, to be used on the pillars or columns, was examined by the capitol commission yesterday it was found to be veined and yellow, instead of a grayish tint, and the contractors were directed to furnish material identical with the sample used in the bidding.

The decorating artist had nothing to do with the matter, and the capitol commission had full charge of the business. The commission denounced the sensational story of an anti-administration paper as a fabrication.

The Des Moines Register

Tuesday, October 10, 1905

DECORATIONS WILL GREET LEGISLATORS

**CAPITOL COMMISSION LEARNS
PROGRESS OF PAINTING.**

TURN ON LIGHTS YESTERDAY

**EFFECT ON INTERIOR HIGHLY
PLEASING TO COMMISSION.**

**The Lunettes and Paintings Will Be
Ready for Their Placement by
January, it is Now Believed.**

Blashfield, the artist, has notified the capitol improvement commission that he hopes to be able to place the large painting which goes above the landing of the main stairway of the capitol, by Dec. 1. The commission received this information last week and is elated at the prospect.

The information has also reached the commission that Kenyon Cox is rapidly completing the lunettes, and that in all probability he will be able to place them by the middle of February or during the session of the legislature.

Diehlman is at work on the mosaics, also, but these cannot be placed before next summer.

The commission's term of office expires July 1.

Its members believe that practically all of the work will be completed by that time.

The lights in the main corridor of the state house were turned on yesterday and the effect was very pleasing. The new chandeliers are merely immense globes covering a half dozen incandescent lights, suspended from the ceiling by large chains of bronze.

Word was received yesterday at the state house that Elmer E. Garnsey, the artist who had charge of the decorations, is very ill at his home in New York, and will make one attempt to secure relief from a goiter from which he has suffered tortures for years, by the absorption method, before going on the operating table. The operation would be attended by very grave danger. Mr. Garnsey is but 43 years of age and commands his own prices. He has turned away more than \$100,000 worth of work this fall.

The capitol commission has decided to decorate the office of the supreme court clerk, the agricultural department and the railroad commission because of the injury done these apartments by the water that trickled through the walls from the fire of two years ago.

CHAPTER TEN

Iowa Code Chapters—Capitol Commission

CHAPTER 177.

CAPITOL IMPROVEMENT COMMISSION.

S. F. 348.

AN ACT creating the capitol improvement commission, defining its duties, and making appropriations therefor.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

SECTION 1. Commission — appointment — term — expenses. That the governor shall, prior to August 1, 1900, appoint three persons who shall constitute a body to be known as the capitol improvement commission, not more than two of whom shall be from the same political party, whose term of office shall begin on September 1, 1900, and end on December 31, 1901. The governor shall, in making such appointments, select one person having recognized business and executive ability, one of well-known mechanical skill, and one, possessing artistic education and training. They shall serve without pay, but shall receive their actual and necessary expenses incurred while in the discharge of the duties of their office. But in no case shall such expenses exceed the sum of three hundred dollars.

SEC. 2. Duties. It shall be the duty of this commission to thoroughly investigate as to repairs and improvements needed upon the inside and outside of the capitol building, and upon any of the property of the state connected therewith. They shall consider the question of decorations, frescoes, and works of art with which to adorn the walls of the corridors, halls, and rotunda. They shall investigate as to modern elevators, electric lighting, fire and burglar alarms, and such other matters as in their judgment would be advisable in order to place the capitol building in a state of perfect repair, equipped with modern appliances, needed either for use or for the safety of the building, and the property contained therein, and to render its interior more artistic.

SEC. 3. Competent assistants — appropriation therefor — vouchers. They shall have power, if in their judgment it is deemed necessary, to employ competent persons for the purpose of gaining information as to proper artistic decorations, and there is appropriated for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this section the sum of \$1,000.00, or so much as may be necessary, and the auditor of state is hereby empowered to issue warrants for the above named purpose, in amount not exceeding the sum hereby appropriated upon the filing of vouchers duly certified by the members of this commission, and the treasurer of state is authorized to pay the same out of any moneys in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated.

SEC. 4. Report — publication. It shall be the duty of this commission to submit a report of their investigations to the governor not later than December 1, 1901. Such report shall contain a full list of all repairs, improvements, alterations, and decorations needed upon said building, together with the recommendations of the commission, and shall contain estimates as to cost of each improvement recommended, and one thousand copies of such report shall be published.

SEC. 5. Appropriation for expenses. The sum of three hundred dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated to pay the actual and necessary expenses of said commission, and the auditor of state is hereby authorized to issue warrants upon the state treasurer, for so much of the sum herein appropriated as may be necessary, upon bills of items certified by said commission and approved by the governor, and the state treasurer shall pay the same out of any fund in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated.

Approved April 7, 1900.

CHAPTER 179.

CAPITOL COMMISSION.

S. F. 176.

AN ACT creating a commission to superintend the completion of the capitol building and certain repairs thereto, and appropriating money therefor.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Iowa:

SECTION 1. Capitol commissioners. That there is hereby created a commission consisting of three (3) persons, not more than two shall belong to the same political party to be known as capitol commissioners.

SEC. 2. Appointment—terms—organization—secretary. That the members of said commission shall be appointed by the governor within sixty (60) days after the passage of this act, and the terms of office of the members of said commission shall commence on the first day of July, 1902, and continue for the term of four (4) years. The members of said commission shall meet at the capitol building in Des Moines, Iowa, on Tuesday, the first day of July, 1902, and select from their number a president, and may appoint some person as secretary of the commission who shall also act as clerk and bookkeeper.

SEC. 3. Revocation of appointments—vacancies. The governor shall have power to revoke the appointment of any person or persons appointed by him under the provisions of this act, and he shall have power to appoint persons as members of such commission should any vacancy occur in the membership thereof.

SEC. 4. Contracts—itemized account. The commission shall have the power and it shall be their duty to let contracts and to employ persons to repair, improve[,] adorn and complete the capitol building in substantial accordance with the recommendations contained in the report of the capitol improvement commission, provided for under the provisions of chapter one hundred and seventy-seven (177) of the laws of the Twenty-eighth General Assembly, and which report was made to the governor of Iowa as provided by law. They shall keep an accurate, itemized account of all moneys expended, and shall make to the governor of Iowa a [an] annual verified report showing the progress of the work, and an itemized statement of moneys disbursed. The accounts of said commission shall be kept in a manner agreeable to the requirements of the executive council and said council shall have its expert accountant examine the accounts of said commission when the accounts of other offices and commissions are examined and at such other time as said council may deem advisable.

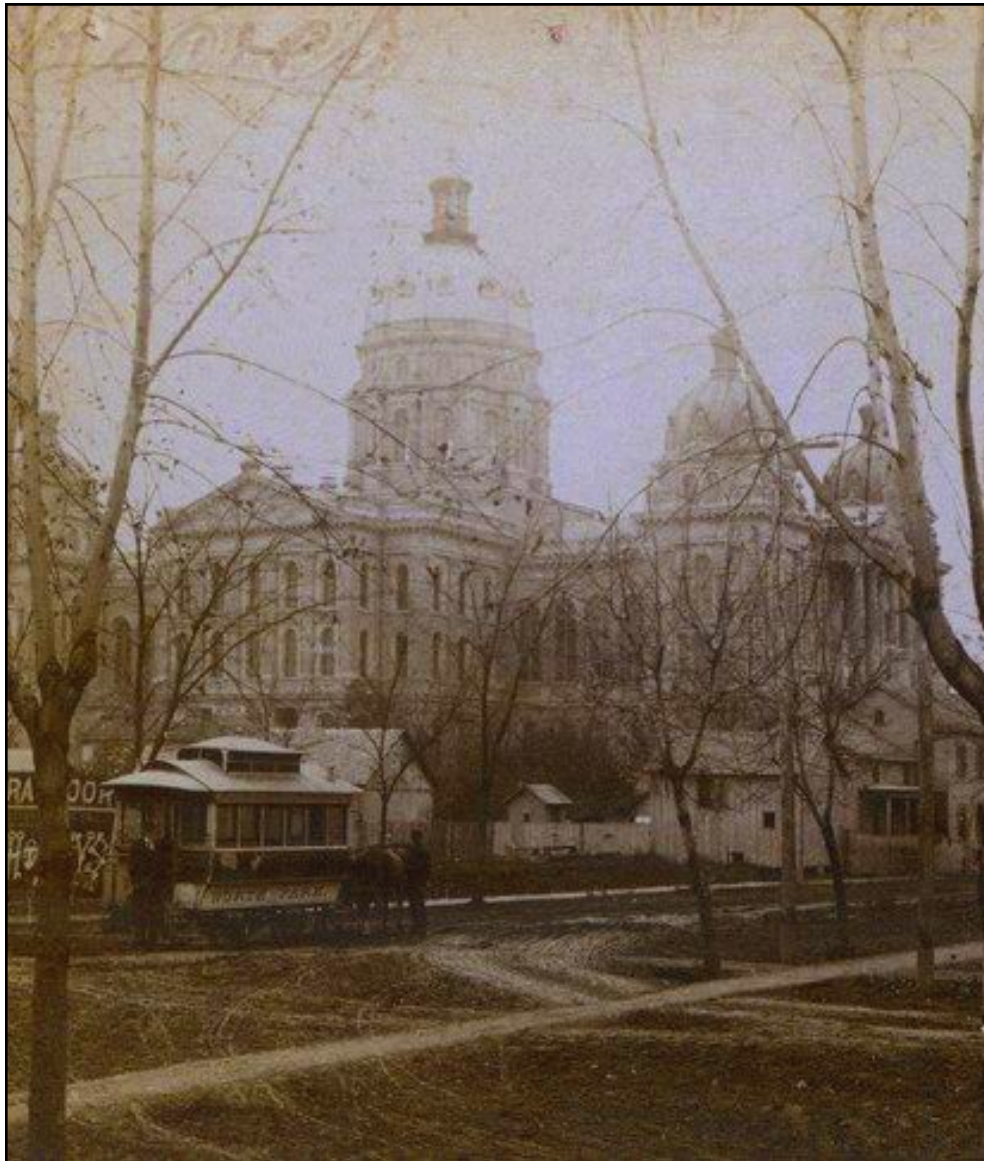
SEC. 5. Compensation—expenses. The commissioners shall each receive as compensation five (\$5.00) dollars per day for each day they are actually employed in the performance of their duties, provided, that they shall not receive in any one year more than five hundred (\$500.00) dollars each. In addition to this they are to be reimbursed their actual necessary expenses incurred and paid by them while engaged in the performance of their duties. The secretary of this commission shall receive as his salary the sum of seventy-five (\$75.00) dollars per month for time actually and necessarily employed.

SEC. 6. Appropriation—when available. For the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this act, there is hereby appropriated out of any money in the state treasury not otherwise appropriated the sum of two hundred and fifty thousand (\$250,000) dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary; provided that there shall not be withdrawn from the treasury during the year ending June 30th, 1903, to exceed one-fourth of such appropriation; that there shall not be withdrawn from the treasury up to and including the 30th day of June, 1904, to exceed one-half of such appropriation; that there shall not be withdrawn from the treasury up to and including the 30th day of June, 1905, to exceed three-fourths of such appropriation, but there may be drawn by and including June 30th, 1906, the entire unexpended balance of this appropriation if necessary in order to carry out the purposes of this act.

SEC. 7. Auditor to draw warrants. The auditor of state is hereby authorized and directed to draw warrants on the state treasurer on presentation of vouchers signed and approved by the governor and president of the commission.

SEC. 8. In effect. This act, being deemed of immediate importance, shall take effect and be in force from and after its passage and publication in the Iowa State Register and Des Moines Leader, newspapers published in Des Moines, Iowa.

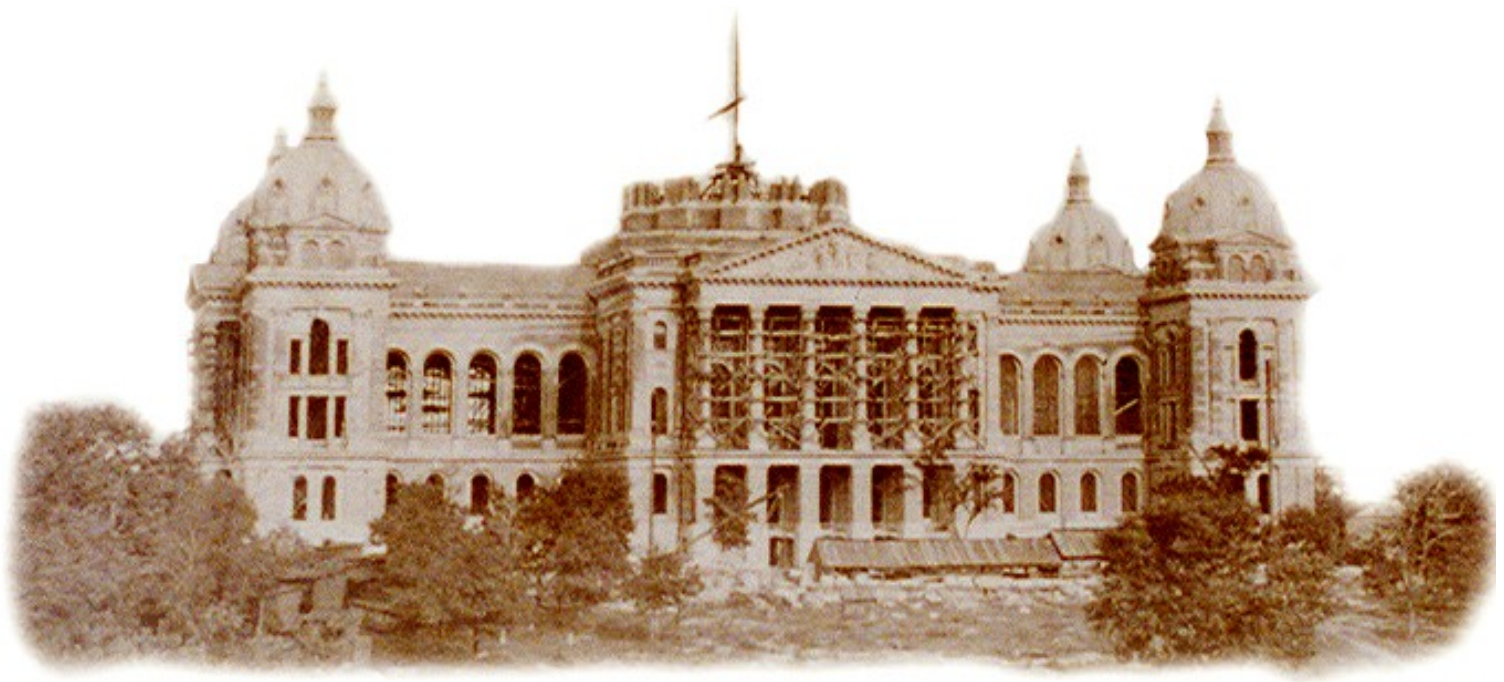
Approved April 12, 1902.



East face of the Iowa State Capitol







\$3.⁰⁰ **Code 64**